

Applicant: Bicek et al.
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1.-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A covered stent comprising a main stent having a radially-expandable body, at least one support stent having an axial length less than the axial length of said body, and a sheath interposed between said body and said at least one support stent with no portions of said main stent being in contact with said at least one support stent, wherein said at least one support stent generates a relative pressing force with said main stent to hold said sheath in place, said sheath being not bonded to said at least one support stent with said pressing force solely acting to hold said sheath in place.

18. (Original) A covered stent as in claim 17, wherein said at least one support stent is plastically-deformed.

19. (Original) A covered stent as in claim 17, wherein said sheath is disposed radially outwardly of said main stent.

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20. (Original) A covered stent as in claim 17, wherein said sheath is disposed radially inwardly of said main stent.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Currently Amended) A covered stent as in claim 17 21, wherein said at least one support stent is disposed in proximity to an end of said body.
23. (Original) A covered stent as in claim 17, wherein said sheath is selected from the group consisting of a polymeric sleeve, a biomaterial sleeve, and a natural blood vessel.
24. (Currently Amended) A covered stent as in claim 17 23, wherein said sheath is treated with a drug selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutical agents, radioactive agents, bioactive agents, and combinations thereof.
25. (Withdrawn) A covered stent as in claim 17, further comprising disposing a second sheath in concentric arrangement with said body.

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26. (Withdrawn) A covered stent as in claim 25, wherein said first-mentioned sheath is disposed externally of said main stent, and said second sheath is disposed internally of said main stent.

27. (Withdrawn) A covered stent as in claim 26, wherein said second sheath is interposed between at least one of said support stents and said body.

Claims 28.-38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) A covered stent as in claim 17, wherein said sheath is not bonded to said main stent.

40. (New) A covered stent comprising a main stent having a radially-expandable body, at least one support stent, and a sheath interposed between said body and said at least one support stent with no portions of said main stent being in contact with said at least one support stent, wherein said at least one support stent is plastically-deformed and generates a relative pressing force with said main stent to hold said sheath in place, said sheath being not bonded to said at least one support stent with said pressing force solely acting to hold said sheath in place.

41. (New) A covered stent as in claim 40, wherein said sheath is disposed radially outwardly of said main stent.

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42. (New) A covered stent as in claim 40, wherein said sheath is disposed radially inwardly of said main stent.
43. (New) A covered stent as in claim 40, wherein said at least one support stent has an axial length which is less than the axial length of said body.
44. (New) A covered stent as in claim 40, wherein said at least one support stent is disposed in proximity to an end of said body.
45. (New) A covered stent as in claim 40, wherein said sheath is selected from the group consisting of a polymeric sleeve, a biomaterial sleeve, and a natural blood vessel.
46. (New) A covered stent as in claim 40, wherein said sheath is treated with a drug selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutical agents, radioactive agents, bioactive agents, and combinations thereof.
47. (New) A covered stent as in claim 40, wherein said sheath is not bonded to said main stent.

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48. (New) A covered stent comprising a main stent having a radially-expandable body, at least one support stent, and a polymeric sheath interposed between said body and said at least one support stent with no portions of said main stent being in contact with said at least one support stent, wherein said at least one support stent generates a relative pressing force with said main stent to hold said sheath in place, said sheath being not bonded to said at least one support stent with said pressing force solely acting to hold said sheath in place.

49. (New) A covered stent as in claim 48, wherein said at least one support stent is plastically-deformed.

50. (New) A covered stent as in claim 48, wherein said sheath is disposed radially outwardly of said main stent.

51. (New) A covered stent as in claim 48, wherein said sheath is disposed radially inwardly of said main stent.

52. (New) A covered stent as in claim 48, wherein said at least one support stent has an axial length which is less than the axial length of said body.

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53. (New) A covered stent as in claim 48, wherein said at least one support stent is disposed in proximity to an end of said body.

54. (New) A covered stent as in claim 48, wherein said sheath is treated with a drug selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutical agents, radioactive agents, bioactive agents, and combinations thereof.

55. (New) A covered stent as in claim 48, wherein said sheath is not bonded to said main stent.